



The City Of San Diego

Councilmember Jim Madaffer

City Council District 7



In this issue:

Lake Murray Fireworks, In Memory of a Fallen Officer, Red Light Cameras, City Budget Update, Community Service Centers and much more . . .

Don't Miss 4th of July Fireworks at Lake Murray



Looking for a great place to watch an outstanding Fireworks show on Independence Day? Come on out to the Music Fest and Fireworks at Lake Murray on July 4th.

Produced by an all-volunteer committee, the event will take place on the Fourth of July in the Community Park on the north side of Lake Murray on Murray Park Drive.

The music starts at 1pm with Latin Jazz from Yavaz followed at 3 pm with 40s and 50s classics by Stage 4. The Good China takes the stage with a variety of hits at 5pm and back by popular demand, Rockola is the closing group from 7-9pm. Fireworks begin at 9pm and once again are simulcast by KYYX at 96.5 on the FM dial.

Bring your own food and drink (no glass containers please) or buy food, ice cream and non-alcoholic beverages from the vendors on both the north and south sides of the lake. The Lake Murray Kiwanis will be cooking burgers and hot dogs on the Murray Park Drive side and the Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis will be cooking burgers and hot dogs on the Kiowa Drive side of the lake. Also on the Murray Park side, Mexican food from Senor Taquito, sausages from Jerry's Foods, ice cream from Niederfranks and treats from the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory will be available for purchase.



There will be opportunity drawing for a variety of prizes, including a boys and girls bicycle, gift certificates and other items. The Patrick Henry Cheerleaders will offer face painting.

Come on out to Lake Murray for the 4th of July and please consider making a donation to allow the committee to continue bringing this great event each year to our neighborhood. You can visit their website at www.lakemurraymusicfest.com. For more information, you may call Jay Wilson of my staff at 619-236-7042.

Senseless Tragedy

We are all saddened by the death of Officer Terry Bennett, a 13-year-veteran of the San Diego Police Department. [Officer Bennett was killed Thursday in the line of duty while pursuing a truck theft suspect.](#) I am shocked and sickened by the callous and deliberate slaying of this law enforcement officer who was serving the public by enforcing the law. Once again San Diego is tragically mourning the loss of a police officer who died while on duty. I have been outraged at



the other stories we have recently heard in the region from the death of an Oceanside Police officer by his own gun to other recent stories of criminals trying to murder law enforcement officers by attempting to run them down.

My heart goes out to Terry's wife Michelle and two sons, ages seven and five. They have lost a husband and father and hero who died in service to the community. I want to express my condolences to Terry's parents and extended family as well.

He was outgoing and a well-liked and respected member of the San Diego Police Department. Terry was known for his love of motorcycles and even as a child had a great interest in them. He was a skilled rider and just last week won first place in the County Motorcycle Rodeo, which is an annual law enforcement competition.

This senseless tragedy has had a devastating impact on Terry's family, on the law enforcement community and on all of us in San Diego.

We are reeling from the loss of two police officers in the last three months who were killed in the line of duty. Both of them gave their lives while protecting the public and we are forever indebted to them. San Diego will always remember them and their service to others.

Neighborhood E-Watch Keeps You Informed

The City of San Diego's Neighborhood eWatch provides information about crime incidents in the City of San Diego to the public for free via the Internet and is updated every 24 hours. I introduced this popular service several months ago and encourage you to use it. The web site address is: <http://ewatch.sandiego.gov>.

Red Light Cameras Are Back

Shortly after assuming office, I voiced my concerns with the City's photo enforcement program. In my opinion, the system was designed as a trap for motorists and became a cash cow for the City. Yellow light times were too short, the design was flawed and the vendor got to decide who received a ticket. At one intersection in San Diego, the yellow light time was changed from 3.1 seconds to 4.2 seconds and the number of photo enforcement citations dropped from 2,500 to 250. Those were all the statistics I needed to do something about correcting the problem. My goal was to ensure that the program be used to promote safety and not as a revenue source. The system was shut down and an audit was ordered. After the audit was completed, the City Council voted to reinstate the program with significant changes including installing two cameras instead of one at each photo enforcement intersection, increasing the length of yellow lights to 4 seconds and paying the vendor a flat fee per intersection instead of a percentage of each ticket. The Photo Enforcement program began on Thursday with the activation of the camera located at A Street and Tenth Avenue downtown. There will be a 30-day grace period whereby notices are issued. At the conclusion of the grace period, actual citations with fines will be issued. By the end of December the remaining seven intersections with photo enforcement cameras will be activated. The following intersections are the initial intersections for photo enforcement cameras:

A Street at Tenth Avenue

32nd Street at Harbor Drive

Black Mountain Road at Mira Mesa Boulevard

La Jolla Village Drive at Towne Center Drive

Camino de la Reina at Qualcomm Way

Cleveland Avenue at Washington Street

60th Street at Imperial Avenue

54th Street at Montezuma Road

Budget At A Glance

This last week the San Diego City Council approved a \$2.3 billion budget for FY' 04. As you know, the City of San Diego, unlike the State of California, is required to balance its budget before the new fiscal year begins on July 1st. We faced tough decisions over how to make up a \$30 million shortfall due to the State reducing their funding to the City. The general fund, which covers the day-to-day operations, is \$741.7 million. That is a 1.7 percent increase over last year's budget. Also, in FY '04 there will be \$4.8 million in new or higher fees.

No doubt about it, residents will feel the effects of this budget and I'm not happy about it. For example, parking meter rates will be increased for the first time in ten years from \$1 an hour to \$1.25 an hour beginning July 1st. I think it will actually be August before the City is ready to implement the change. Parking tickets fines will increase by \$5. We'll also get more aggressive in collecting unpaid parking tickets. I've been championing this issue ever since learning that the City is owed millions in outstanding citations.

Fortunately we were able to lessen the severity of some cuts and not increasing fees as high as the City Manager had recommended. For example, community pools will remain open in winter, and at least one branch library in each City Council district will be open on Sundays and the popular Community Service Center hours will remain the same.

I hate to bring bad news but I'm afraid it's going to get worse, folks. The State is out of control fiscally in my opinion. Bankrupt in many respects. Unlike the City of San Diego, they aren't really required to balance their budget. Unless they figure a way to cut back on their own bureaucracy, they are poised to impose an additional \$20 million reduction in revenues they normally send to the City of San Diego - nearly \$1.2 billion against local governments statewide. That will only make our severe economic squeeze in San Diego even tighter. Why is it that the only solution we hear from Sacramento is to increase taxes? They propose increased taxes despite the fact that the State budget grew by 38 percent over the past five years while the population in California grew by only 21 percent! They want to increase taxes but refuse to implement true fiscal reforms. Local governments like San Diego are at the end of the food chain when it comes to tax revenues. From your property tax and sales taxes, as well as income taxes, all this money is sent to Sacramento with Cities like San Diego way down on the list. The terrible thing about this inequity are the impacts to services cities such as San Diego provide to their residents. From police and fire and other public safety to parks, libraries, street repair, garbage collection and other essential services - It's sad these are the areas impacted when so many things in state government remain operational with new buildings, facilities and out of control growth with their budgets.

The State should adopt true budget reforms from simple things like blocking any new legislation until a new State budget is adopted each year to spending caps, to a reduction in the size of State Government. The bureaucracy has simply grown too large. Part of the reforms would include a State constitutional amendment protecting local government funds once and for all from future raids.

It is high time that Sacramento stop using cities like San Diego as their personal bank account due to their lack of fiscal responsibility!

Community Service Centers Serve You



There's a more convenient way to do business with the City of San Diego than driving downtown to City Hall. That's the reason we established Community Service Centers (CSC) located in communities throughout each district. As you know these centers provide services such as processing small home improvement building permits, accepting payments for water bills and traffic violations, processing passport applications and small business licenses. Also, residential parking permits are issued at the College Rolando CSC. We are fortunate to have three Community Service Centers located in District 7:

College/Rolando

Juan Baligad - Manager
4704 College Avenue
(619) 516-3100

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Navajo/San Carlos

Salam Hasenin - Manager
7381 Jackson Drive
(619) 668-2700

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tierrasanta

David Bryant - Manager
10615-E Tierrasanta Blvd
(858) 573-5000

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Many other Priorities

There's many priorities and issues I'm involved with each and everyday - to get an idea of some of the many things we're working on for you, visit the [Priorities Page](#) on my website to learn more.
